

The Oregonian

SUBSCRIPTION RATES. IN ADVANCE. (By Mail.) Daily, Sunday included, six months, \$3.00...

rate so high as to strut and look the dog against foreign competition. He was, says the journal above quoted, "a good business man and would doubtless have been rich even without the aid of protection, but the fact nevertheless is that his very large fortune is mainly a product of tariff discrimination."

FINE "PINTS" OF LAW.

It seems to be an established rule of law and morals in California that extortion of money for protection of crime, or use of official authority to extort money from those who wish to find an open and clear way to "do business," free from molestation, is the law and is subject to no penalty.

How do the courts accomplish it? Nothing could be more simple or easy. It is held that the statute does not forbid corrupt use of official power and influence, graft and blackmail except in the case of public officers.

Whatever honesty yet remains in California should devote itself to complete exclusion from the company of honest men, of judges who protect crime in such ways as these.

When Judge Thomas M. Norwood retired from the bench of Georgia last December full of years and honor he signalled the event by an address on "The Negro."

THE MISUSE AND EXCESS.

To the primary law itself and reasonable interpretation and use of it, the Oregonian has made no real objection. The primary law introduces a system that confuses issues between parties; but let that pass. It is to an effort to make a suggestion in the primary law—which the law itself treats only as a suggestion—the chief feature and whole spirit of the law, that the Oregonian makes its objection.

A BENEFICIARY OF THE TARIFF.

The late Senator Proctor was one of the wealthiest of the wealthy men in the United States Senate. He was, moreover, a type of the old-style business man of his day and generation in New England. He was a man of influence in Congress from the time he entered it, in 1891, to the day of his death, seven years later.

Several bills have been before the present Congress, and the system is being investigated much more thoroughly than ever. Regardless of the evils that seem to be inseparable from the legitimate functions of the "future" system of trading, the practice is overwhelmingly indorsed by strictly legitimate grain dealers and millers throughout the country.

LABOR UNIONS BEFORE CONGRESS.

Representatives of labor organizations of the country, now at Washington to urge Congress to pass an employment liability act, with various other legislation for the benefit of organized labor, passionately denounce the Supreme Court for a recent decision rendered by it, which is said to make "the National anti-trust law applicable to labor as if it were a trust conspiracy and an organization in restraint of trade."

The representatives of the various branches of the steel trust met in New York Thursday, and, after discussing trade conditions and prices, decided that there would be no change in the price of steel.

MR. HUMPHREY'S MISTAKES.

Congressman Humphrey, in his over-zealous desire to help subvert, continue to handle the truth regarding the subject in a most careless manner. In the current number of Government, a magazine printed in Boston, Mr. Humphrey contributes an article on "Our Weakness on the Pacific," in which he states that "it was the subsidized vessels of Japan which carried her troops to Manchuria, that supplied them with food and ammunition."

Do Americans Want Lower California?

A California Congressman wants this country to buy Lower California. The immediate purpose of such a purpose is the advantage of Magdalena Bay as a naval station. Although Lower California is, generally speaking, a desolate and deserted stretch of territory, Magdalena Bay is a superb harbor; its wide and deep waters are protected by a natural breakwater, the island of St. Margarita.

Lady Tom, Thousand Years Old.

Mrs. Spade Foot, the lady toad in Bronx Park, who had been asleep a thousand years, has not been on speaking terms with any of her tribe since the sub-paleozoic age. She was found to sleep long ago and a few months ago a prospector's hammer struck her. She was taken to the New York Zoological Gardens and was watched with great interest.

Prohibition and the Disolute Darky.

For the first time in 15 years, there is not a negro in the city prison at Atlanta, Georgia, and the fact is passed to the credit of the new prohibitory law. No doubt it deserves it. The law was made for that very purpose and apparently it is accomplishing what was intended.

Bill's Bad End.

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LINCOLN AND WHISKY DRINKING

Abraham Lincoln's attitude toward the liquor question was made the chief weapon of the anti-saloon forces during the rapidly increasing agitation over the question. Testimony from dozens of sources was cited to the effect that Lincoln did not use intoxicating liquor and that he took the stand that the "demon rum" must be the next foe to be conquered in this country after the reconstruction period.

Charles Edwards, secretary of the Edwards-Deitch Lithographing firm, being whose mother served as a member of President Lincoln's staff, said: "As a boy I remember Mr. Lincoln coming to the home of my father in Springfield, Ill., and he always had liquor on the sideboard. I never saw Mr. Lincoln take a drink, but I do not remember that he ever said anything about it."

It would be interesting to know whether there was any whisky in the White House. I remember that Mr. Lincoln kept in Salem in the early days. Most groceries of the kind were grog shops, but I can offer no information as to the matter.

DISPENSARY SCHEME A FAILURE.

The state of South Carolina has gone out of the whisky business, and Senator Tillman's hobby, the dispensary, has collapsed, leaving a pungent odor of corruption, bribery and greed which has long been suspected, and is now being exposed by exhibiting the books, which show that the state has been paying from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000 for whisky.

RACE BETWEEN TAFT AND HUGHES.

Providence Bulletin, Ind.-Rep. If Governor Hughes had appeared in public life before the day of Theodore Roosevelt the people would almost certainly have elected him as their man in the country to guide them out of corruption and greed to National honor and fair play.

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DEATH RATE AMONG THE STATES

The Federal census bureau is now making yearly reports on mortality statistics from such states and cities as maintain a carefully conducted registration of deaths and the causes thereof. This so-called registration area was very small when the bureau began its work several years ago, but it is being constantly enlarged, and for the report for 1906 issued recently it embraces 15 states, the District of Columbia, and 71 registration cities in non-registration states.

These are very low figures. They compare favorably with present death rates in foreign countries. But it is when this present death-rate of 161, over an area peopled by above 40,000,000 persons, is placed in comparison with rates which used to prevail in the earlier half of the last century, that the progress of mankind in mastering the forces which produce premature death is made impressively manifest.

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BOOKS

WITHIN the past few days, the cables tell us, English authors have, with praiseworthy effort, been interesting themselves in public affairs. For instance, an anti-conformist demonstration called on a governmental official, and J. M. Thrusms' Barrie, often called the shayest man in England, made the opening speech, and A. Pinero and Sir William S. Gilbert also spoke against such an unpopular official as a play-examiner.

The title of Miss Sedgwick's new novel will probably be "Annabel Channing." The scene, says Miss Sedgwick, is laid in the "old-fashioned" and is very dramatic—a knot sharply unraveled in the space of about one week. There are four characters, and no more, of any importance, besides the heroine, Anne, Augustine; her husband, Sir Hugh Channing; and another woman, Lady Elliston. The story centers in the "relation of the heroine to the other three."

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Interpretation of the Bible, by Professor George Holley Gilbert, D. D., formerly of Chicago Theological Seminary, covers the entire history of the interpretation of the Old Testament and its interpretation by Philo; then its use by Jesus, which the author regards as of fundamental significance; then the New Testament writers; the interpretation of early Christian writers from Clement of Rome to Irenaeus; the Alexandrian and Syrian types of Biblical exegesis; medieval interpretation; interpretation as practiced by the reformers; interpretation in the 18th and 19th centuries; and finally the great movement toward a more scientific interpretation which has marked the past 50 years. The book is full of interesting and valuable critical comments thereon, and is fully thoughtful not blindly in sympathy with what is known as "modernism" in the movement.